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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 51st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. YAMADA (Japan)

(Chairman of the Working Group of the Whole on the Elaboration of a Framework Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses)

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Mr. Yamada (Chairman of the Working Group of the Whole on the Elaboration of a Framework Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses) took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 144: CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE NON-NAVIGATIONAL USES OF INTERNATIONAL WATERCOURSES (continued)

Organization of work

1. The CHAIRMAN said that, at its second session, the Working Group of the Whole on the Elaboration of a Framework Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses would build on the work done by the Drafting Committee and the Working Group at the previous session. He would take it that the Working Group wished to retain the same officers. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 51/206, paragraph 4, the Expert Consultant would continue to assist the Working Group.

2. The Working Group must make efficient use of the time available, since it must complete its work, adopt the convention and report directly to the General Assembly by 4 April 1997.

3. At its previous session the Working Group had discussed all the articles prepared by the International Law Commission and had referred them to the Drafting Committee. The Drafting Committee had completed its consideration of all articles, with the exception of article 3, paragraph 3, article 7, article 33, the preamble and the final clauses. Since the Drafting Committee needed to complete its work on the remaining issues no later than 27 March 1997, he suggested that it should begin its work immediately, with a view to reporting to the Working Group on that date.

4. There would be a need for informal consultations, presided over by coordinators, to tackle any difficult issues. In that connection he noted that the report of the Drafting Committee (A/C.6/51/NUW/WG/L.1/Rev.1) contained a number of elements in square brackets as well as footnotes. Informal consultations should begin as soon as possible with a view to obtaining a clearer, clean text. He drew the Working Group's attention to an informal paper prepared by the Chairman which summarized the progress made during the first session and outlined what remained to be done.

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.